

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00084 061035Z

14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 SAM-01 OC-05

CCO-00 OPR-02 SCCT-01 EB-07 /080 W

----- 119324

O R 061000Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7972

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0084

DELIVER TO NEA/ARN/DRAPER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJ: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. DRIVING TO WORK THIS MORNING BY MAIN STREET OF AIN RUMANNEH, ECONOMIC GOUNSELOR AND I OBSERVED A TRUCKLOAD OF FLOUR BEING HIGHJACKED BY THE PHALANGE. A FEW CASUAL ONLOOKERS WERE EQUALLY INTERESTED BUT IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ANYONE TO STOP THIS ROBBERY. THREE LOCAL EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE KIDNAPPED YESTERDAY. WE UNDERSTAND BY ARMENIAN COMMUNISTS. ONE WAS RELEASED LAST NIGHT AND WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE OTHER TWO WILL BE RELEASED THIS AFTERNOON OR EARLY EVENING. NIGHT BEFORE LAST DAO AMERICAN EMPLOYEE HELD AT GUNPOINT BY THREE MEN AND HAD HIS APARTMENT LOOTED.

2. OTHERWISE BEIRUT HAD A RELATIVELY CALM NIGHT. THERE WAS A BIT MORE MORTARING AND AUTOMATIC ARMS FIRE THAN NIGHT BEFORE, WHICH IS OMINOUS. PRINCIPAL HOT SPOT NOW IS TEL ZATAR, FROM WHENCE NEW YEARS EVE PYROTECHNICS WERE AT FLAT TRAJECTORY INTO ASHRAFIEH. PHALANGE HAS NOW BLOCKADED ACCESS ROADS AND STOPPING
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FOOD SHIPMENTS.

3. POLITICKING CONTINUES INTENSELY. LATEST SUBJECT OF INTEREST IS WHETHER PARLIAMENT WILL BE EXTENDED. TOMORROW'S CABINET MEETING WILL ADDRESS ITSELF TO THIS PROBLEM. CHAMOUN ONCE AGAIN SEEKS ARMY INTERVENTION. KARAME AND JUMBLATT, WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE OUTS FOR MANY MONTHS, ARE BACK ON SPEAKING TERMS, WHICH IS A GOOD SIGN.

4. AUB OPENED PEACEFULLY AND KIRKWOOD REPORTS NO REPEAT NO PROBLEMS. REGISTRATIONS ARE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN ANTICIPATED BUT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO COME UP WITH FIRM FIGURES. GODLEY

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NNN

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